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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

June 28, 2002

## Democrats' Desperation

Dear Republican Colleague:

Last week, our Democratic colleagues proved just how desperate they are to avoid an honest debate on strengthening Social Security. They claim they want a debate on "privatization" bills that would "dramatically cut benefits for all of the senior citizens in the country." However, none of the plans linked to the discharge petition would cut seniors' benefits even one dime- not mine, not the plan by Representatives Arney and DeMint, and not those of the President's Commission.

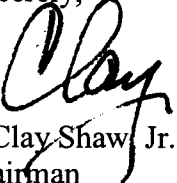
Social Security is one of the most important issues we all face. In fact, President Bush's leadership and his Commission to Strengthen Social Security has been instrumental in educating Americans on Social Security's financial challenges and the options before us. However, President Bush has not endorsed a particular plan, and neither the President, the President's Commission, nor any Republican has recommended turning over control of the program to the private sector.

Contrary to Democrats' demagoguery, the Council of Economic Advisors advise that the tax cuts "provided valuable stimulus to economic activity in the short run" and "provided powerful stimulus for the future." Moreover, Social Security's surpluses will continue to be fully credited to the trust funds as required by law, and seniors will continue to receive every penny of their hard-earned benefits.

Democrats' bankruptcy of ideas damage Social Security - not personal accounts. The Democrats' "no-plan" means workers age 23 and younger today face their benefits being cut by a third when they retire. "No-plan" means workers under age 23 face up to a 50% increase in the payroll taxes they pay to keep paying full benefits to retirees.

The discharge petition is a political ruse to divert attention from the fact the Democrats' leadership refuses to tell Americans how they plan to save Social Security. It is our duty to the American people to counter the mistruths and scare tactics of Democrats with straight facts and honest discussion. I am attaching two documents with talking points on Social Security and counterarguments to Democrats' misleading statements, which I hope will help you in your discussions with constituents over the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess.

Sincerely,

  
E. Clay Shaw, Jr.  
Chairman